

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 680

By Trail

A RESOLUTION to recognize Marie Parks upon her retirement as
Director of Adult Education in Bedford County.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Marie Parks is one such estimable individual who has served with distinction as an educator for over thirty years and is retiring as the Supervisor of Bedford County Adult Education, a position she has held since the inception of the program in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks, a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University who earned her Master of Arts degree from Trevecca Nazarene College, taught fifth and seventh grade classes for the Franklin and Bedford County Schools between 1972 and 1986 before becoming Bedford County's first Adult Education Supervisor in 1987; and

WHEREAS, in her sixteen years at the helm of the Adult Education program, Marie Parks, emboldened with a passionate desire to render aid, guidance, and knowledge to those in need, has created one of the State's premier Adult Education programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Mrs. Parks, working first from her home and then from an office in the Bedford County Board of Education building, recruited the program's first sixty-five students and trained eighty volunteer tutors, giving them the tools to teach others to read and write; and

WHEREAS, since that year, Marie Parks has fueled the growth of Bedford County Adult Education; it now employs five full-time teachers, three part-time teachers, a full-time bookkeeper and secretary, and a part-time receptionist, and offers assistance to over five hundred adults every year; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks joined with the Shelbyville Breakfast Rotary Club in 1991 to locate a facility which could be used solely for adult educational purposes. Later that year, a full

restoration was initiated on the historic train depot, culminating in the dedication of the building in 1994 to the service of adult literacy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work in adult education, Marie Parks is very active in her community, serving as a member on the United Way board, the secretary of the Workforce Investment Board, a member of El Centro Latino, and a member of the legislative committee of the Tennessee Association for Adult and Community Education; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks also formerly served on the boards of the Governor's Three Star Program, the Shelbyville Housing Authority, the Salvation Army, the Bedford County Literacy Council, and the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, recognized throughout the state for her contribution to adult education, Marie Parks was given the Sequoyah Award in 1994, and the Bedford County Adult Education program, under her leadership, was the recipient of this year's Tennessee Quality Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Parks exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and she is most proud of the love and companionship she shares with her husband, David, and her two children, Karen Snipes and Kelley Kirchner; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Marie Parks has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, and has given many men and women in Bedford County guidance and education, ensuring their ability to attain their highest goals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Marie K. Parks our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and for every continued success in her future endeavors, and offer our sincerest appreciation for her dedication to adult education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.